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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 725
By McKee

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Marilyn and Jerry Rowden of Athens upon being named the 2002 recipients of the Joy Dirksen Baker Award.

WHEREAS, the impact of fatal maladies upon families can be devastating, and cancer, in its many and varied forms, has long inspired particular fear and dread; the response of a family to the loss of a member to a fatal disease occasionally produces a positive determination to combat that particular disease through the support of research and treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, Joy Dirksen Baker was the daughter of the late Senator and Mrs. Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois and wife of the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr., former U.S. Senator, Minority Leader, Majority Leader, White House Chief of Staff in the Reagan Administration and current Ambassador to Japan; in response to Joy Dirksen Baker's death from cancer after a courageous struggle, Baptist Regional Cancer Center and the Baker family established the Joy Dirksen Baker Award to honor individuals making a positive contribution to cancer research; and

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WHEREAS, since opening in 1980, the Baptist Regional Cancer Center has moved to the forefront of clinical trials and cancer research, being selected along with Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York, M.D. Anderson in Houston, Marin in San Francisco and the Cancer Research and Therapy Center in San Antonio to conduct clinical trials of the promising cancer-fighting drug Taxotere; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Regional Cancer Center and Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center have been affiliated for six years, and Baptist also belongs to numerous national study groups committed to providing the latest treatment options to cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 recipients of the Joy Dirksen Baker Award are Marilyn and Jerry Rowden of Athens, whose only child, Kimberly Rowden, was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 25 and died at age 28; her mother, Marilyn Arnold Rowden, was the only one of five girls in her family who did not develop breast cancer, probably because she chose to have the prophylactic removal of both breasts; and

WHEREAS, the genetic predisposition of the Arnold family, designated as "Family 3311" has been the subject of an eight-year genetic investigation by researchers from the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, Creighton University, Duke University and Memorial Sloan-Kettering in the hope of identifying the defective gene or genes; and

WHEREAS, Kim Rowden's courageous battle with breast cancer inspired one of her physicians, Dr. Kamila Kozlowski of the Knoxville Comprehensive Breast Center, to establish *The Kim Rowden Fund for Advanced Breast Studies*; part of the Baptist Health System Foundation, the Fund was established to provide for women who do not have the required financial resources for diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Kim's parents, Marilyn and Jerry Rowden, serve on the board of the *Kim Rowden Fund for Advanced Breast Studies*, and join in the continual search for new sources of research funding; the Fund emphasizes research of the breast MRI and recently received a

grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to provide free mammograms and health education to uninsured women over 40 in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, longtime residents of Athens, Marilyn and Jerry Rowden are active members of Keith Memorial United Methodist Church and have been active in various organizations; Jerry, a 38-year employee of J. M. Huber Corp., is a past president of the Springbrook Golf and Country Club, past president of the YMCA and currently serves on the Living Heritage Museum Board, as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and as a Director of Southeast Bank and Trust; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the devoted caretaker of her family, Marilyn has served on the local American Cancer Society Board, has co-chaired the Relay for Life for a number of years, organized the women's state qualifying golf tournament, and is a past president of the Ladies Golf Association at Springbrook Country Club; she currently serves on the McMinn Living Heritage Museum Guild; and

WHEREAS, out of their grief and loss at the death of their daughter, Marilyn and Jerry Rowden elected to join the struggle to advance breast cancer research and the detection and treatment of breast cancer among women in East Tennessee; their time, energy and experience has been utilized to support others battling breast cancer, along with their unstinting friendship, words of encouragement, and prayer; and

WHEREAS, the deep commitment and dedication of Marilyn and Jerry Rowden to work for a final victory over breast cancer is an inspiration to all who face the threat of breast cancer, as well as all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our sincere gratitude to Marilyn and Jerry Rowden for their years of service in the fight against breast cancer and congratulate them for being the 2002 recipients of the Joy Dirksen Baker Award, a much deserved honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.